

May 2004

To The Citizens of Hollywood Park:

As the Chairman of the Deer Control Committee and Volunteer Assistant Project Manager of the Deer Relocation program, I encourage you to take the time to read this information so that you can be better informed about the Relocation program.

As of March 31, 2004, 199 deer from Hollywood Park (HP) have been removed. March 31st was the last day the State would allow relocation of deer under the city's Trap, Transport and Transplant (TTT) permit. Of the 199 deer, 163 were set free on area ranches, with 18 of these released at Camp Bullis. Despite **legal and other delays**, in only three weeks, we were able to catch the 163 deer that were relocated. The cost for this trapping session was **\$28.59 per deer**.

We were required by the State to test 10 deer for every 100 deer to be relocated. Recommendations from State Wildlife Biologists and area Trappers determined that 300 deer should be removed during the first phase of our program. **The State required at least 30 deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing.** Out of the first 14 deer trapped for testing, only 9 came back as usable. An additional 22 deer were trapped; all 22 were usable. The samples were sent to Texas A&M for testing. No CWD was found in any of the samples. The meat from the tested deer was donated to the San Antonio Area Food Bank.

It is important to note that no more deer than necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Texas Parks and Wildlife were taken for testing. There were no cases of death loss due to trapping or hauling.

Hollywood Park is the **only** city in Texas that has made any effort to **relocate** deer. All other cities, including Lakeway, Horseshoe Bay, and Sunset Valley, process the deer they capture. Sun City, near Georgetown, has negotiated with HP's trapper to remove 400 deer, all of which are to be processed, starting January 2005. **91%** of the residents are in favor of this action.

The Trap, Transport, and Process (TTP) permit issued by TP&W and used to trap the deer for testing of CDW was valid through August 31, 2004. **The Mayor and Council made the decision not to utilize this permit for the removal of additional deer and terminated the permit. The situation will be re-accessed in the fall of 2004.**

The City purchased pens to be used for capturing and loading deer without much handling. This will reduce the need for nets in the future. The City also has silent releases that, in conjunction with additional releases borrowed from other cities, eliminated the need for blasting caps to drop nets. The City replaced a net, at a cost of \$1,000 that was cut and shredded the evening of the Humane Society-PETA sponsored demonstration at City Hall.

Immuncontraception (IC). Some people believe that IC is the answer to our dilemma. IC is the use of drug implants to provide extended birth control in animals. **SpayVac**, which is the registered name of the IC in question, is **not approved** by the FDA or the State of Texas for general use. ***It is strictly an experimental drug designed to be used to maintain herds of deer, not as a means of reducing the over-population of a herd.***

I spoke recently to R. Gray Anderson, a Certified Associate Wildlife Biologist and executive with Holterra Wildlife Management of Nashville TN, the sole North American distributor of SpayVac. **He informed me that the optimum number of deer in a herd for the consideration of using IC should be around 100.** The test performed using IC in the past have all been conducted on herds that are insular. That means that no deer can get into the test site and no deer can leave the site. This would require us to either become an island or put up an eight-foot game proof fence all around HP. In Holterra's own written proposal to the City, it acknowledges that Spay Vac has never been tested in a non-insular setting like HP. HP has deer that move back and forth between here, Hill Country village, the golf course, and the areas to our north and east.

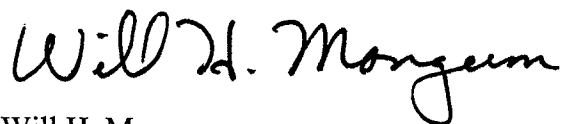
I pressed Mr. Anderson for cost estimates for IC. He had no idea how much it would cost per animal. According to Dr. Anthony J. DeNicola, renowned Wildlife Ecologist, who has done extensive research into the use of IC, **the cost of IC is close to \$1000.00 per head of deer treated.**

For IC to be effective, any deer not treated with SpayVac must be either shot, trapped, or relocated by any other method that Holterra decides is necessary to remove or relocate "un-treated" deer. You need to understand that deer in the wild normally live up to 10 years. That means that even if IC did work, the City would spend **several hundred thousand dollars** and still have **hundreds** of deer left for years to come.

Darting and relocation. This very viable option would be one of my first choices if there was more resident cooperation. When a deer is darted, it takes several minutes before the drug takes effect. A deer can travel quite a ways in five to seven minutes. ***When a deer is darted, it can be handled gently, wormed, vaccinated, and loaded before it realizes it has been touched. Its post release survival rate is greatly increased.***

Of the 476 households that responded so far, **391** gave permission to retrieve darted deer. The City needs more residents to sign release forms in order to utilize this option. If you have not already signed a release form, please contact City Secretary Barbara M. Haddock at 494-2023, extension 21.

I hope this information has been helpful. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will H. Mangum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Will H. Mangum